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JPRS L/8635

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27 August 1979

Sub-Saharan Africa Report

FOUO No. 646



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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

ARMS FOR RHODESIA TRANSIT MAURITIUS, REPORTS CHARGE

Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in French 23 Jul 79 p 77

[Article by Herve Masson]

[Text] Another scandal. Something's going on that will get the Port-Louis government in still more hot water.

Everybody knows that since she became Britain's prime minister, Mrs Thatcher has been doing her level best to get the Western powers to grant official recognition to the Muzorewa-Smith regime and to Rhodesia-Zimbabwe's "independence." British Conservatives have close ties with several multinational corporations operating on the scene, companies like Lonrho, for one. During a stopover in New Delhi, Lord Carrington, Foreign Office secretary, on 2 July said that London was contemplating recognizing for Bishop Muzorewa's government; at about the same time, down in Canberra, Mrs Thatcher was announcing that Great Britain might well decide to lift sanctions against Rhodesia in November. Pressures are being brought to bear on the United States and on such African regimes as Zambia, where the queen is to go next August.

There's Rogers, and Then There's Rogers....

If the other Commonwealth states wax indignant, the Conservatives in London (and in the city) could not care less.

Meanwhile, the traffic in arms flowing toward Salisbury is doing very nicely.

And in that connection, a scandal has just erupted on Mauritius, whose government is, as everybody knows, one of the Western powers' most faithful allies. In a 12 June BBC broadcast from London, Mauritius--or, more precisely, the Mauritian firm of Rogers--was accused of transshipping weapons and military materiel to Rhodesia via Port-Louis. Questioned in the assembly, Mauritian Prime Minister Seewoosagur Ramgoolam would say only that the Rogers company was not involved, nor was any other Mauritian company. He did not, however, deny that arms shipments were transferred from one ship to another off Port-Louis.

As for the Rogers company, it mounted its high horse. One of the company directors, Mr Rene Maingard (from Ville-es-Offrans) announced that Rogers had

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demanding a complete retraction by the BBC. The company's London attorneys are reportedly considering possible suits against the BBC. Mr Maingard, though, did take time to point out that Rogers is a very common name in English-speaking countries, which is true enough. Maybe, he ventured, the story really referred to another company of the same name. What he completely neglected to say was that there is only one Rogers company in Mauritius, and that is the one on whose board of directors he sits!

How much truth is there in this story? While we do not have proof that it is indeed Rogers of Mauritius that is involved, all the rest is gospel, and a matter of general knowledge. First of all, it would be helpful to recall the statements of Mr Gaetan Duval, leader of the Mauritian Social Democratic Party (PMSD), and a member of the coalition government. Criticizing the prime minister's leanings toward a more progressive foreign policy, Mr Duval stated that his party and he himself favored immediate recognition of the Muzorewa regime and a rapprochement with Pretoria. The former foreign minister solemnly added that "Mauritius' friends are in the West." The PMSD has the muscle to put pressure on the government and force it to shut its eyes to an arms traffic it can only approve. People are not unaware either that, despite all the commitments made to the OAU (and more recently to the Libyan Government), the Mauritian Government maintains very close ties with South Africa. South Africans are Mauritius' best tourist trade in the luxury range. Rogers and the Maingard family have some of the largest holdings in hotel chains.

In left-wing circles within the governing Labor Party, they say that in fact arms, including shells, spare parts for planes and helicopters, and "highly sophisticated weapons," recently passed through Port-Louis. These Labor Party members have no hesitancy in naming the Mauritian companies and dignitaries involved in this traffic. They have called on the prime minister for an investigation of the matter, and he has agreed. We would be ready to bet that it will lead nowhere, unless, of course, the opposition, particularly the Mauritius Militant Movement (MMM), decides to get into the act.

So far, though, the official explanations have convinced nobody, and everybody is waiting impatiently to see what the investigation will turn up.

Be that as it may, the BBC charges have stirred up considerable emotion in London and in Commonwealth circles.

Explanations have reportedly been demanded by the Mauritian Government. Authorized Commonwealth spokesmen in London feel that the matter is of particular gravity at the diplomatic level, because it constitutes no less than a flagrant violation of the sanctions imposed on Rhodesia. The prime minister's rather scanty and wholly inadequate explanations to the assembly were hardly calculated to quiet the outrage and indignation of all his Commonwealth-nation colleagues.

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam who, at this point, has to cope with an unprecedented crisis in his regime, certainly has other fish to fry. The vast majority

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of the Mauritian people are already calling for him to resign and for the ouster of the corrupt people, all of them more or less in the pay of foreign interests, who make up the gang that has been in power for so long. Under attack from outside and under pressure at home, can it still hang on? Can it go on letting things drift? From now on, Mauritians will have their share in the massacres and executions that are bloodying southern Africa. We all know that, no matter where it's been, money never stinks--at least not of blood--but in Mauritius, as elsewhere, more and more people growing more and more impatient feel that there is a limit to the daily scandal of a corrupt system.

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CHAD

PEACE PROCESS BARELY BEGUN DESPITE NORMAL LIFE IN SOUTH

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Jul 79 pp 2021-2023

[Article by Jacques Latremoliere: "The Conditions of Political Settlement in Chad"]

[Text] The successes won in Mayo-Kebbi at the beginning of June by Lt Col Kamougue's troops, at the expense of the northern troops flown to Bongor by the government had as its first effect the renewal of confidence in the old national army of Chad, now withdrawn almost entirely to the cotton growing regions. Contributing to erasing the insults that army had suffered in Ndjamena in February, have these successes then improved the chances of a peaceful settlement between the two camps? The trip made to Chad at the end of last month by Mr Guy Georgy, director of African and Malagasy affairs at the Quai d'Orsay, gave rise to certain hopes in this regard, in particular in Sahr, within the small French colony of technicians, businessmen and priests who have lived there without interruption.

The hope and the deception which followed were both needless. At the current stage, the goal can only be to get the enemy brothers to accept the idea of a meeting, excluding insofar as possible the more or less self-interested intervention of neighboring countries. If this has been done in theory, in practice the factions excluded from the regime, of which Ndjamena remains the symbol, are repelled today as yesterday by the idea of cutting off their foreign support. Lagos and, a fortiori, Tripoli having declined to host a future conference for the government of Mr Mahamat Choua; Col Kamougue, on the other hand, does not plan to alienate the sympathies of Nigeria, nor the more distant ones of Libya, on this subject. The adjacent countries, for their part, would like to prevent the Chadian affair from becoming a cause of discord among them. Cameroun in particular has seemed careful not to offend its powerful neighbor to the west by sponsoring, or giving the impression of sponsoring, a new reconciliation effort.

While the organization of a conference in Chad comes to the same in fact as recognizing a duality of power to which both north and south continue to voice hostility, the choice of a place where it could be held will without a

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doubt be the subject of a second stage of negotiation, in the long and detailed style consistent with the local spirit. The modus vivendi which seems to have been established along the borders of the cotton growing country, following the battles at Pala and Ere, should facilitate its development, revealing at the same time the similarities of interests or goals likely to dictate the new political groupings.

It would be venturesome, however, to prejudge in this regard, since the majority of the existing parties developed in relation to the others in the course of recent years and collaboration in the armed struggle. No serious projection about the future of Chad can be made in a present which itself is fluctuating, and no assertion could be certain of approaching the truth. At the most it is acceptable to dispel certain interpretations which are obviously characterized by confusion or error.

The Situation in the Cotton Growing Country

One of the legends due much more in fact to the precarious postal and communication links with foreign countries than to partisan propaganda, has to do with the supposed economic and administrative anarchy prevailing in the cotton growing territory following the ethnic uprisings which occurred last February in Sahr and Moundou.

The fact that these rebellions did in fact occur and, unhappily, took a harsh toll in human life--there is talk of 500 deaths in Moyen-Chari and perhaps more in Logone--has, alas, been established. The high feelings sustained in the towns by natives of the south, flooding back from Ndjamea contributed greatly to increasing the figures. Arriving on foot or packed into COTONTCHAD trucks, plundered, harassed, many of them having lost their wives, children and possessions in the bombings of the capital and the plundering which followed them--these refugees were obviously more sensitive than others to provocation from the native Arab, Bornu or Hausa neighborhoods in Sahr and Moundou. The young people in these parts of the city, following the entry of the FAN [Northern Armed Forces] and the FROLINAT into Ndjamea, made the error of interpreting this as a definitive victory with its effects extending to the whole of the territory. In an article written in January and published in these columns before France was informed of the revolts (our issue dated 16 February 1979, "The Survival of Chad and Its Future," p 433), we warned of the danger of the agitation being pursued by the FROLINAT in the towns of the south and the popular reactions which it could not fail to provoke.

Launched under such conditions, the disorders began as of 4 March in Sahr, and if they did not take further victims, it was because the firearms were generally in the hands of the Arab or Bornu minority, and the knives for throwing were on the other side. The clashes were short-lived, the partisans from the north having soon been killed or driven off and their families located near the airport or the police station by the army, in order to ensure their departure on planes which came from Ndjamea, while the dead were buried in the Kassai cemetery. It also seems that a wave of those in

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flight, trying to get to Salamat by way of Kyabe and the Ganatyr Plain clashed near the water sources with hostile Sarakabba people, who caused a toll of other victims among them in a number which cannot be established.

The mechanism of events was probably the same in Moundou, but the development is less well known, since the majority of the private employees and European cooperative workers had had to leave the town, with the exception of two or three, while in Sahr such firms as the SONASUT and the Chad Textile Company were able to pursue their activities, under more or less normal conditions, except for the shortage of diesel fuel, the only source of which, and that very limited, was Bangui. The proper operation of public services there was guaranteed on a continuing basis thanks to the efforts of a prefect of great value, in such sectors as health, the treasury and public works, where the teams are engaged in repairing roads at this beginning of the rainy season.

The total withdrawal of the French technical assistants which was begun last February, first of all, by means of a mere suggestion from the embassy, and then orders to depart on the Transalls sent for the purpose, could only seem most surprising to the 40 some French citizens, including women and children, living in the town. It also surprised the local authorities, who were informed that a considerable number of our cooperative assistants were being kept in Ndjamena. The departure of the teachers for the summer vacation was certainly legitimate, but there was never any need to anticipate it, and it was the more irritating still since the French doctors at the hospital who had almost unanimously decided to stay, finally found themselves forced to leave their patients and their compatriots behind them.

Generally speaking, the desire of the local authorities to guarantee normal conditions of life has never been contradicted. The establishment of political committees made up of refugee notables, parliamentarians and government employees in the capitals is designed not to establish a "second government," which would in principal be harshly rejected, so firmly anchored is the idea of unity of the Chadian state in the minds of the people, but to provide embryonic popular representation, superimposed on the simple administrative levels. From Moundou, Col Kamougue is maintaining contact with these committees, ensuring their coordination.

The efforts of this semirepresentative political group are pursued in two directions:

- To avoid first of all any resurgence of rivalry or persecution with a religious basis. The people of the Moslem quarters, in the majority, although harshly tested by events, remained where they were and have ceased to concern themselves. The contrary would be hard to imagine, moreover, for many Moslems or Moslem converts serve in the administration and the army, in which they hold important posts. One might even think that one of the reasons why Col Abdel Kadar Kamougue insists on maintaining relations with Libya which to date have brought him only negligible support, is that this enables him to avoid any accusation of anti-Moslem prejudice, maintaining the chances for a

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reconciliation, indeed an alliance, with one or more of the factions in the north. On the contrary, many individuals in the south retain their links with the Ndjamena government and could launch effective reconciliation when the time comes.

The reestablishment of economic activity, which dictates the social climate in the cotton growing regions, is the second goal of the authorities in the south. The ginning and storage of the 1978-1979 cotton harvest, estimated at 140,000 tons, is already assured. It remains to market the stock in order to honor the commitments signed and to obtain repayment of the seasonal loans indispensable to the financing of the season just beginning. This operation comes up against a number of technical difficulties: the shortage of diesel fuel, closing of the banks, interruption of bank transactions and a considerable slowdown in postal communications with foreign countries. But it also raises problems of structure, with the decisions of all kinds the situation requires depending on a consensus of authorities who are geographically scattered, or whose reinstatement is no longer certain. The recent return to Moundou of Mr Djounouma, the commercial director of COTONTCHAD, and the talks held with Mr Choua's government justify the hope that an agreement, at least temporary, will allow the launching of the 1979-1980 season, avoiding any delay in planting and the application of fertilizers and insecticides.

Neither of the camps, since both of them claim to support a united state, can in fact allow itself to neglect the single controllable source of the country's monetary income. It is unfortunately probable that recent events have led to a certain irregularity in the promulgation of agricultural slogans and rigorous staffing efforts, although the reports available in this connection are somewhat contradictory. There are few details available in Moyen-Chari concerning the situation in Koumra and Moissala. The geographic situation of Kyabe, on the road to Salamat, hardly seems consistent with the unhindered implementation of the agricultural schedule. In Logone, the prospects seem good. The same is not the case unfortunately in Mayo-Kebbi, in particular in Bongor, Gounougaya, and the greater part of Pala. Unless exceptionally favorable weather conditions occur, it would be wise to expect a drop in cotton production which might reach 35 percent in 1980.

The North-South Confrontation

The unfortunate offensive of the government troops of Ndjamena from Bongor, in the direction of Pala and Kelo, were so dramatic that it should at least have persuaded it that the "assimilation" of the south would create as many risks for it as the assimilation of the regions of the north by the administrative cadres who were natives of the Sara territory did in its time. But the northern failure had specific military causes. The troops of Hissein Habre and Goukouni had entered Ndjamena in February with troops which were limited but with an individual will to combat, equipped with good light weapons and relatively well disciplined. Their general comportment made a favorable impression on the French officers stationed in the capital of Chad for military cooperation.

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The need for Mr Hissein Habre to keep his eastern sanctuary in Biltine intact, and the need for Mr Goukouni to safeguard Borkou and Tibesti against Libyan incursions, led them to round out their units by recruiting individuals with no military value among the Baguirmi and Kotoko people in Ndjamen. They were attracted, above all, by the prospect of plunder and their loyalty to their chiefs could at the very least be questioned. It was these troops which came up against the units of the regular army of Chad along the road to Lai. This latter force, fighting now in a region of which the majority of its cadres and ranks were natives, gained thereby, under the energetic command of Col Kamougue, an unexpected impact. The new style army of the north was the less able to hold out against this tough adversary since it melted like snow in the sun due to desertions as it pursued its advance toward the south.

Perhaps Mr Hissein Habre decided too late to try the experiment of conquering southern provinces. The end of the year 1978 in fact coincided, thanks to the hesitation of Gen Malloum and the anguish about the future this provoked in all Chadian cadres, with a period during which many leaders, whatever their ethnic origin, wondered if the installation in power of a young and capable leader would not settle the problems of the country once and for all, if indeed in a somewhat rude fashion. The break between the general and the northern members of the government put an end to this period of rather agreeable expectation, to which the survival of a number of Sara ministers in the Mahamat Choua Lol government still bears witness.

If Hissein Habre and Goukouni made a bad choice of a moment to launch an offensive, one must not, however, lose sight of the fact that the conquest of the cotton growing part of Chad, that is to say the part which produces money, had become an obligation for them as soon as, stripped of their former foreign support, they were forced to deal both with the Libyan offenses in the north and the concurrent undertakings in the center of Chad and at the very gates of Ndjamen by the bands of the former Arab deputy Ahmat Acyl, who for his part continues to receive weapons and subsidies from Col Qadhdhafi.

The justification for the logistic support given the Choua government by Gen Forest and his general staff is perhaps to be found here. We have naturally been criticized for it very bitterly by Col Kamougue, indignant at the seeming preference for Mr Hissein Habre, the product of a Marxist Latin Quarter education, to a former Coetquidan student. Could this support be credited with presenting a more radical and less generous-minded political takeover of the government by another power? In the inexhaustible arsenal of arguments and counterarguments exchanged on this subject, this one is perhaps not totally without validity.

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Unity in the North

The argument would be more valid still if the danger supposedly offset by the presence of a French army detachment in Ndjamea had been demonstrated by some concrete fact. In other words, would this presence have really prevented effective foreign intervention if Mr Hissein Habre had been deemed by others to be of future value? The present political situation in the northern part of Chad makes it difficult to accept this as likely.

Both north and south are standing fast on their positions currently, the south holding the left bank of the Chari, to the north as far as Baili, spilling over on the south to the right bank in the direction of Kyabe and Lake Iro. But the formal government does not command so much obedience in what is traditionally called Dar-el-Islam, the southern boundaries of which lead from Korbol to the west, following the southern contours of the central Chadian mountain range to end, on the east, in the distant Berber areas of the Rounga territory. It would be more satisfying to the mind to believe it did, but the truth unfortunately is that differences of temperament, language and tradition between the north and the south are but one of the aspects of the Chadian problem, the other, and without doubt the more important one, deriving from the almost total lack of political structures in the north, a lack for which the machine guns of the bands which carve out for themselves a temporary authority there, as circumstances allow, compensate but imperfectly.

Cut off from the nerve center in Ndjamea, the southern provinces, after a period of fluctuation, rapidly reestablished a unity to which they were condemned by the market economy, and they resumed the administrative traditions inherited from the colonial era without difficulty. Although it has the ministry, the communications and the banks, the central government has succeeded neither in exacting obedience from the regions in the south nor imposing its authority on the regions in the north, nor even in maintaining agreement within it between the supporters of Goukouni and those of Hissein Habre, who clashed once again just a few weeks ago in bloody scuffles in the heart of the capital.

A political commitment made by Col Kamougue would have every chance of being respected by the population he controls as a whole. It is only too obvious that none of the three leaders in the north--Hissein Habre, Goukouni or Ahmat Acyl--is in a position to play a comparable role. The first two, after coming within reach of it, agreed to a temporary patchup under the nominal sponsorship of Mr Mahamat Choua Lol in the name of a sacred union against the Libyan invader. The third made common cause with that invader, his troops controlling an important part of central and southeastern Chad, Massenya in particular--the old Tchikena of the Baguirmi territory, Aboudeia and Am-Timan. The Arab origins of this former deputy certainly won him some sympathy in this sector, sympathy stingily accorded his Goram rivals by the large Bedouin Rachid, Khozzam and Myssirie tribes of Guera and Batha. We should not fail to note that along the boundaries of Moyen-Chari, it is with

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Ahmat Acyl's men, their objective allies, that the southern authorities maintain contact. Only Bousso, on the right bank, is believed to be still held by Hissein Habre's men.

Mr Goukouni, whose troops are difficult to defeat on their own terrain, that of the desert and Tibesti, have just won major successes on the northern frontiers against what are conventionally called the Libyan columns, one of which has just been annihilated near Ounianga and another cut to pieces in Wour, near Bardai. Even if the Libyans are in reality Ouled Sliman recruits from among the Eguei nomads, and if this victory, which cost the enemy several hundred soldiers, was facilitated by the Chadian fleet, providing the transportation of reinforcements, food and munitions to Faya and Zouar, it nonetheless contributed to restoring the fortunes of the young Tebu chief-tain, affiliated with the traditional hierarchy to a certain extent by his status as the son of the derde of Tibesti.

The fortunes of the FAN and their leader Hissein Habre, who bears the responsibility for the Pala and Ere defeats, on the contrary, are rather seriously on the decline. What remains today of the sympathy aroused in the entourage of Col Forest, which was it must be added repaid, by the excellent comportment of his men? The personality is willingly identified as an African Che Guevara. But more specifically, Che Guevara failed, and it was to his inefficiency that he owed his abandonment, in the final analysis, by the Marxists of whom he claimed to be one.

The process designed to lead to reconciliation and peace in Chad is thus just begun. The reestablishment of the conditions of normal life in the southern regions under the sponsorship of Col Kamougue certainly represents an important step in this direction. But it is probably less difficult, as a function of the personal antagonisms and the real credibility they enjoy with the people, to arrange peace between the south and the north than to reconcile the north with itself.

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CHAD

BRIEFS

NEW FRENCH MILITARY CHIEF--At the conclusion of a, to say the least, controversial tour Brig Gen Louis Forest on 30 July left his duties as commander of the French armed forces in Chad. This is news pleasing to the former President Felix Malloum, in exile in Nigeria, and Lt Col Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue, entrenched with the main body of the Chadian armed forces [FAT] in the southern part of the country. These two men have as a matter of fact accused the French general of having protected Hissein Habre during the clashes which put Ndjamea to fire and sword last February. Even today, Colonel Kamougue and his supporters state that the Goukouni-Habre twosome hold the Chadian capital as a result of France's support. Is the French Government determined to maintain this support? In any event, General Forest's replacement is an expert on Chad. He is Col Pierre de Tonquedec who had been chief of staff of Gen Edouard Cortadellas, during the initial French intervention in Chad (1969-1972). [Text] [Paris] JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 8 Aug 79 p 21

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CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE

FAD FINANCING STOCKRAISING PROJECTS

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 13 Jul 79 p 1990

[Text] The African Development Fund (FAD) granted a loan in the amount of 3.2 million units of account (approximately 819,200,000 CFA) to the Central African Empire on 30 May, to finance a livestock raising project. This loan involves a service charge of 0.75 percent per year and is repayable in 50 years, including an amortization deferment of 10 years.

The project is designed to improve the conditions of life for the M'Bororo livestock breeders in the western zone of the Central African Empire, through an improvement in the livestock raising services and the limitation of deterioration in pasture lands (which will have the effect of improving animal production). The project, it is hoped, will increase dairy and meat production, establish a better pasture land management system, encourage the full or partial settlement of the M'Bororo livestock breeders, and make possible the study of the basic problems in animal production in the region in order to develop a long-term strategy for this sector.

The following are the components of the project:

- a. Supply of equipment, personnel and support to the livestock breeding authorities so that they will be able to carry through an animal health program for the 700,000 head of cattle initially planned for the western part of the country;
- b. Training of personnel by means of short-term apprenticeships, renovation of the livestock breeding technical school in Bouar, and the training of higher level personnel working in conjunction with personnel with foreign training;
- c. Establishment of working capital to finance the purchase of veterinary products to be sold at cost price to the livestock breeders;

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d. Implementation of a pilot project in the Topia region with a view to introducing and testing simple methods leading to improved pasture land management, and also the establishment of cooperative association of livestock breeders; and

e. To supply the loan of consultants at 44 men per month to carry out studies pertaining to animal health, pasture land resources and economic aspects of the traditional method of livestock breeding with a view to drafting a long-term strategy (for animal production, including preparations for a supplementary project).

The total cost of the project is estimated at 10,800,000 units of account, or five million in foreign exchange and 5,790,000 in local currency (1 UCF = \$1.11 or 256 CFA francs).

The FAD loan will supplement the IDA and IFAD loans, as well as the Central African Empire funds to be used for financing the following components of the project: civil engineering, vehicles and equipment, maintenance operations, veterinary products, wages for foreign personnel and the personnel recruited locally, as well as studies during the period of execution. The FAD loan will cover 38 percent of the foreign exchange costs and 28 percent of the local currency costs, representing 29 percent of the total cost of the project.

The livestock breeding authorities at the Central African Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Rural Development will be the executory body for the project. Its implementation will extend over five years. Contracts will be let for goods and services on the basis of bids solicited internationally.

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CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE

FED, NETHERLANDS TO PROVIDE AID IN FISH BREEDING SECTOR

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 6 Jul 79 p 1934

[Text] The European Development Fund (EDS) Committee approved the financing of supplementary infrastructures for the national fish breeding center in La Landjia, near Bangui, in the amount of 105 million CFA francs, in the course of its 137th session held last 22 May.

The EDS investment pertains to:

- electrification of the La Landjia fish breeding center;
- construction of a hatchery for the raising of young catfish;
- supplementary equipment for the hatchery; and
- housing.

The Government of the Netherlands, through the intermediary of the University of Wageningen, is making a contribution of 90 million CFA francs to the project, assuming responsibility for the technical aid and the research costs.

The Central African Empire, for its part, will supply the necessary personnel and land.

The La Landjia national fish breeding center has the task of supplying Central African fish breeders with young tilapia, catfish and carp and to train workers to popularize fish breeding. The center includes seven hectares of basins and produces between 8 and 10 tons of fish and 2 tons of young per year. In the Central African Empire there are two other major fish breeding centers, in Bouar and Bambari, and two secondary centers in Ippy and Alindao.

In 1978, these centers provided assistance to 1,956 fish breeders, having 2,597 ponds totaling 37.93 hectares in area. The annual yield of these ponds is about 1.9 tons per hectare.

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In the country as a whole (ponds and rivers) fresh fish production can be estimated at about 20,000 tons per year, of which 70 percent is dried.

It should be noted that since 1972 the La Landjia fish breeding center and the other centers have received aid in the amount of about \$400,000 from the United Nations, through UNDP [United Nations Development Program], FENU and UNICEF financing, put to use by FAO experts. Parallel to this, the USAID and the Peace Corps have supplied workers to popularize fish breeding techniques.

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KENYA

BRIEFS

SWEDISH MINISTER VISITS--Swedish Minister of Trade Cars paid a visit to Kenya at the beginning of July and studied a means of developing trade relations and cooperation between the two countries with the local authorities. Kenya Minister of Foreign Affairs S. L. Munyua Waiyaki expressed satisfaction with the Swedish decision to prohibit any investments in South Africa after 1 July 1979. The Swedish minister, for his part, voiced the hope that other industrialized nations will take similar steps. In addition, he indicated in connection with Zimbabwe-Rhodesia that his country has no intention of recognizing the government of Bishop Abel Muzorewa. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 13 Jul 79 p 1995] 5157

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LIBERIA

DISADVANTAGES OF PRESENT ECONOMIC SYSTEM NOTED

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 25 Jul 79 p 27

[Article by P.G.]

[Text] The cow is ours, but other people drink the milk. That proverb could very well be Liberian. With 2,500 ships, Liberia has the largest fleet in the world, but it owes that position to the facilities it grants to shipowners from everywhere. In exchange for a (low) tax, shipowners register their ships in Monrovia and benefit from the financial, legal, and tax advantages proper to a flag of convenience. But the profits flow into the pockets of the real owners--American or Japanese--and it was only very recently that Liberia got a genuine (and small) national shipping company.

The country's economy is like its merchant marine. For years rubber was the principal product, and it was the American firm of Firestone that made the rules in Liberia. And with more than 36,000 hectares in production, Firestone remains No 1 (accounting for 40 percent of production) in a field that still accounts for 15 percent of all exports. B.F. Goodrich (more than 5,600 hectares) and a subsidiary of Uniroyal (7,600 hectares), both American firms, are far behind. Although accounting for half of the cultivated land, national producers still provide only 30 percent of the volume produced.

Age of Iron...

Beginning in 1961, iron ore replaced rubber in occupying first place in the economy (55.7 percent of all exports). The reserves are large, and the iron content is especially sizable (300 million tons of ore are said to contain more than 60 percent iron). LAMCO (Liberian-American-Swedish Minerals Company) (Bethlehem Steel) is the largest producer (48 percent of the total in 1976), ahead of the West German Bong Mining Company (29 percent), the National Iron Ore Company (15 percent), and the Liberian Mining Company (8 percent). Here again, the Liberians are hardly in evidence: the government owns half the capital of the National Iron Ore Company and for a very short time has also owned part of LAMCO--at a time when the world market for iron ore is entering a recession.

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As far as diamonds are concerned, no one can say what the country produces or for whom. Smuggling into Sierra Leone exceeds the officially exported production (\$21.4 million in 1977).

...And of the Dollar

Are other examples needed? Industry is still very limited, and even it includes the establishments in the free zone, which are directed mainly toward the outside world. The four railway lines belong to the mining firms. One of the two radio stations is owned chiefly by British interests. Five of the seven commercial banks are completely or partly American owned.

Money supply figures are no more accurate than those on diamond production. Liberia uses the U.S. dollar and allows absolute freedom of exchange. Such a policy is scarcely beneficial in a period when the U.S. currency is in a decline. It also allows all sorts of trafficking: how much Liberia borrows abroad is known, but only estimates are possible concerning investments and deposits abroad (about 25 percent of the internal income) by the wealthiest nationals. Those nationals, constituting 3.9 percent of a population descended from former slaves who returned from the United States, share among themselves 60.4 percent of the total income.

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NIGER

BRIEFS

PRICE INCREASE WANTED--The French daily newspaper LA CROIX published an interview with President Seyni Kountche on 10 July. The president of Niger who had taken up the energy problem, among others, with President Giscard d'Estaing in Paris on 6 July, said that "The orientation toward the relaunching of nuclear energy production decided upon in Tokyo might open up positive prospects for Niger. Uranium, he recalled, constitutes the major resource of Niger, which suffers further, in addition to the total lack of oil on its territory, from its landlocked situation. Col Kountche, who hopes that "there will be a substantial increase in the price of uranium each year without need to await an increase in the price of oil," said moreover that Niger plans to develop the exploitation of its uranium resources further. In this connection he stated that in addition to the companies already in operation, SOMAIR [Air Region Mining Company] and COMINAK [Akouta Mining Company], a new company, the Tassa and N'Tachalgue Mining Company (SMTT) will be established with production to begin toward 1981-1982. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Jul 79 p 2045] 5157

ISLAMIC BANK--The president of the Islamic Bank met on 10 July with President Kountche. The Islamic Bank is participating in a number of farm development projects, among others the major Birni N'Konni project about 400 kilometers to the east of Niamey. It is also participating in the building of the Anouu-Araren thermo complex near Agadez, and might soon become involved in the financing of imports to Niger of crude oil. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 July 79 p 2045] 5157

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SENEGAL

BRIEFS

PLAN REVISED--The Government of Senegal, as is known, has had to revise the Fifth Plan for the Development of the Country downward. The world crisis and the effects of the 1977 drought, but also the limited capacity to absorb foreign credit, the difficulty in finding counterpart financing and the low level of capacity to cover debts are the main reasons for this adjustment (see MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 25 May pages 1302-1303). The national assembly approved the law lowering the total for the Fifth Plan for the Development of the Country by 19 billion CFA francs on 2 July. Thus the financial total was lowered from 416 to 397 billion, and the planned rate of growth from 5.8 to 4 percent. We gave the details of this adjustment in our 25 May issue. Let us recall that the main guidelines of the plan are not changed. Agriculture remains a priority sector, with a planned investment of 50.8 billion, as compared to the initial 47.6 billion. The goals for this sector are stabilization of peanut production at 1.2 million tons, increasing the production of millet to 750,000 tons, cotton production to 59,000 tons, and meeting 70 percent of Senegalese grain needs. Energy, transportation and communications, education, the food and mechanical industries and local products are also increasing. The decrease will affect above all livestock breeding, water projects and forestry, fishing, mines and industry, textiles, construction materials and the social sector. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 13 Jul 79 p 1997] 5157

EXPORTS PROMOTED--In order to establish equilibrium in the Senegalese trade balance, which showed a deficit in 1978 because in particular of the decrease in peanut exports resulting from the poor harvest, a program for promoting exports was drafted by the interministerial council, meeting on 5 July, with Prime Minister Abdou Diouf presiding. The program is designed to eliminate administrative obstacles and to create incentives for exports, to establish committees entrusted with simplifying administrative procedures and Senegalese participation in trade exhibits. On the other hand, the establishment of a credit system for exports and credit insurance is also planned, as is the provision of aid to small and average Senegalese enterprises with a view to ensuring new foreign markets for them. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 13 Jul 79 p 1997] 5157

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TANZANIA

TRACES OF PETROLEUM DISCOVERED IN SONGO SONGO

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Jul 79 p 2056

[Text] Tanzania has discovered "traces of petroleum" at the Songo Songo site in the district of Kilwa (Lindi region, in the southern part of the country) where a natural gas deposit is to be exploited. This announcement was made on 10 July to the parliament in Dar es Salaam by Tanzanian Minister for Water, Energy and Minerals Al-Noor Kassum.

The minister added that studies in greater depth have been undertaken.

He said that geologists found "slight traces of petroleum" in the course of drilling done in Songo Songo, and he denied reports which appeared in the foreign press about the "discovery of oil in Tanzania," stressing the fact that it is still too soon to say whether there will be enough oil to exploit, since the Italian Agip company entrusted with the work has not made all of the necessary studies. This work, Mr Kassum explained, is expected to cost seven million dollars.

The minister also indicated that the first results of a geological study showed that certain sectors of the Tanzanian territory might well contain major mineral resources. He added that discussions will be undertaken with specialized companies to study the investment potential in the mining sector.

Where the water problem is concerned, finally, the minister said that six million persons, i.e., 38 percent of the rural population, will from now on have drinking water distributed to them.

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TANZANIA

BRIEFS

PRODUCTION INCREASE URGED--If Tanzania wants to speed up its economic development, farms of large dimensions equipped with modern facilities must be established in the country, President Nyerere said in a speech to the nation delivered in Dar es Salaam in connection with "Farmers' Day" on 6 July. He said that for the countries in the Third World, the choice of a socialist policy is the best, for such a policy makes it possible to control their power. Through socialism, he added, "the people free themselves from exploitation, humiliation and oppression." The day will come, he said, when there will no longer be any capitalist farms in Tanzania. The chief of state also stressed that every effort in the direction of an increase in harvest or goods produced represents a contribution to the building of a socialist society, for the socialism established in Tanzania must last, President Nyerere explained. The chief of state urged Tanzanians, in conclusion, to work harder in order to resolve the "very" great problems confronting the country following the war waged against Uganda. It is time for Tanzanians to put as much energy into increasing production as they did into the battle against President Amin, he said. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 13 Jul 79 p 1994] 5157

GERMAN AID--A subsidy agreement involving 270 million shillings, or 33.75 million dollars, was signed on 6 July in Dar es Salaam by the representatives of the governments of the FRG and Tanzania. This subsidy is intended to finance a number of projects, including the electrification of seven communes, water distribution for the town of Tabora, and a railroad equipment enterprise. The FRG has already provided Tanzania with a total of 92.75 million dollars for a number of projects, some of which will receive supplementary financing thanks to the new agreement. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 13 Jul 79 p 1994] 5157

PUBLIC INVESTMENT ENCOURAGED--The Tanzanian Government has just authorized the public sale of stocks to make up the capital for a major company, Highland Soap and Allied Products Ltd., which is to build a soap plant with a production capacity of 15,000 tons of soap per year in Tanzania. This plant, which will cost \$7 million, will be the largest of its type in east Africa. The stocks offered to the public through the intermediary of the Industrial Management

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Services Ltd. company, an affiliate of the K. J. group, and the main promoter of the project, represent a total value of \$240,000. The offer for sale is valid until 31 July. The main financing for the soap plant will come, moreover, from the IFC [International Finance Corporation], the East African Development Bank and the Tanzanian Investment Bank. This is the first time the Tanzanian Government, departing from its traditional state socialist option, has thus encouraged the intervention of private interests in the development of a major industrial achievement. The difficulties encountered by the semistate companies, which the government decided not to subsidize any longer (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 29 June, p 1740) and which proved to be veritable financial drains, explain this change of orientation in the Tanzanian economic policy. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 6 Jul 79 p 1938] 5157

SISAL PRODUCTION DROPS--The production of sisal, one of the leading Tanzanian export products, is declining without interruption, and urgent measures must be adopted to halt this drop, a Tanzanian parliamentarian, Mr Tobi Mweri, stated on 29 June, blaming the government for this situation. Tanzanian sisal production, which totaled 250,000 tons at the time of nationalization, is likely to total between 60,000 and 72,000 only this year, and if this decline continues, Mr Mweri added, Tanzania will cease to produce sisal in 1983. The main reasons for this decline are, among other things, the Tanzanian deputy said, inadequate maintenance of the properties and poor working conditions in their exploitation. The government sisal agency manages 75 percent of the sisal operations, Mr Mweri recalled. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 6 Jul 79 p 1938] 5157

NATION FACING BANKRUPTCY--International circumstances and the poor management of the state's economy might lead Tanzania to financial bankruptcy. The war for the "liberation of Uganda" reportedly cost \$500 million. Before 1978, Tanzania had received foreign aid under very favorable conditions, in particular from the Scandinavian countries, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD], the Netherlands and China. In 1976 the interest rate was barely 1.4 percent. The payment of the debt had absorbed 5.6 percent of the income from exports in 1976; it dropped to 4 percent in 1977 after the cancellation of debts by several countries, in particular Sweden. It is estimated that since June 1978 the state's total debt has increased by \$326 million (four times more than the estimates). The total [debt] payment will amount to \$121 million during fiscal year 1979-1980. In 1979 the payment of the foreign debt will absorb 14 percent of [the income from] exports and possibly more. The deficit in the balance of payments has increased from \$154 million in 1977 to \$238 million in 1978 and might still increase twofold in 1979. The petroleum bill alone will increase by more than \$50 million. The price of coffee (which constitutes 31 percent of total exports) is 8 percent below 1976 prices, the price of cotton (which constitutes 15 percent of exports) is 4 percent below 1976 prices. Although the price of sisal (which constitutes 6 percent of exports) has remained constant, production has declined by 35 percent. [Text] [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 8 Aug 79 p 26]

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DUTCH FINANCING--The International Labor Office (ILO) announced on 13 July that the Netherlands will finance a rural development project in Tanzania. This project, which will utilize the manpower which is idle in the rural zones, will make possible the irrigation of 3600 hectares. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Jul 79 p 2056] 5157

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UGANDA

BINAISA HAS TROUBLE MAINTAINING STABLE SITUATION

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 13 Jul 79
p 1994

[Article: "An Insecurity Which Is Impeding the Normalization of the Situation"]

[Text] The new Ugandan chief of state, Godfrey Binaisa, is still having difficulty in completely controlling the situation in his country, where increasing insecurity is apparent. In addition to acts of pure banditry are demonstrations of ethnic and other kinds of rivalry (which are often linked), originating from supporters of former chiefs of state, from Dr Obote, still a refugee in Tanzania, to Mr Lule who, under guard until now in this country's presidential palace, went on 9 July to be hospitalized in London, including Idi Amin Dada who, now a refugee in Libya, has finally succeeded in erasing himself somewhat from international attention.

Mr Binaisa, who has initiated a new administrative apportionment of Uganda, expressly to discourage tribalism and secessionist designs and to have better control of the whole territory, has in addition divested himself of the foreign affairs portfolio, entrusting it to its former holder in Mr Lule's government, Otema Halimadi.

On the eve of the OAU summit meeting, which will start on 17 July in Monrovia, and before the Commonwealth conference that is to take place in August in Lusaka, Mr Binaisa's concern, and perhaps even more that of his protector, President Nyerere, seems to be the withdrawal of the Tanzanian troops who came to aid in overthrowing Idi Amin's regime. This problem, and the problem of the restabilization of Uganda and of this eastern part of the continent, was the subject of discussions between the two heads of state in Dar es Salaam at the beginning of the month.

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The Tanzanian president explained his views frankly on 6 July, stating that his country had no intention of leading Uganda, nor of choosing its leaders, nor, further, of setting up a socialist regime there similar to that in his own country. Finally, he appealed to friendly nations to help the country get back on its feet. For its part, Uganda has sent ministerial missions to western, central, and southern Africa to explain its position and its problems. Finally, President Binaisa has no intention of recalling Dr Obote to power and is counting on remaining himself at the head of state until the expiration of the temporary period decided on by the National Liberation Front following the overthrow of Idi Amin.

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UGANDA

NEED SEEN TO INCREASE COFFEE PRODUCTION

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 20 Jul 79
p 2055

[Article: "Regarding the Need to Stimulate Coffee Activity to Relieve the Economic and Financial Situation"]

[Text] On 11 July, Jack Sentongo, the Ugandan minister of finance, announced that a decision had been made by his government to undertake the exporting by plane of 30,000 tons of coffee in order to bring a fast, immediate remedy to the critical situation in the current national balance of payments. In fact, the deficit for 1978 is already estimated at 664.8 million Ugandan shillings (42.8 million pounds). Coffee, the export of which counts for 90-95 percent of the total receipts of sales abroad, is the best product to speedily restore the economic and financial situation. Although its production was neglected under Idi Amin Dada's regime, it has remained the principal source of revenue. Its share in the total receipts of foreign currency, evaluated today, we have said, at between 90 and 95 percent, was only 56 percent in 1972. However, according to officials of the Coffee Marketing Board, as a result of the damage caused to the crops by the recent civil war, the production of the 1978-79 campaign should be especially low and will only be approximately 100,000 tons. Moreover, because of the damage also caused to the warehouses, especially those in Masaka and Mbarara, the stocks themselves are also low. Again according to officials of the board, they have gone from 1.4 million 60-kilogram sacks in 1977 to only 850,000 sacks today, not taking into account the hundreds of thousands of sacks that are stocked in the port of Mombassa in Kenya, from where most of the shipments are made.

Exports for the period from 1 October 1978 to 30 September 1979--mainly Robusta--are nevertheless estimated to amount to 2 million sacks (4 percent of the world market) and they are already calculated at 2.5 million sacks for the identical period in 1979-1980.

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Since the United States have lifted the import embargo they decreed under Idi Amin's regime, they will become once more the main purchaser of Ugandan coffee. In 1977 their share amounted to 43 percent, while only one third was purchased by EEC countries.

The administrative representative of the coffee organization, Swaib Musoke, has already expressed some hopes for increased production. Although the 121,000 tons produced in 1977-1978 should drop to 100,000 tons in 1978-1979 (it had been 214,000 tons in 1972-1973), it could be between 130 and 150,000 tons in 1979-1980.

Mr Musoke stated that everything will depend on the efforts that will be made to resolve the serious transportation problems and to improve the crops. Everything will also depend on the response of the growers to the increases they have been given in the purchase price--the latest on 5 July--and on the ease they will have in procuring products that have become scarce, such as sugar, salt, and soap. The scarcity of these products has had the effect of causing them to engage in smuggling with Kenya, smuggling which has risen, it is estimated, to approximately 55,000 tons of coffee in 1977-78.

It should also be said that as long as they were underpaid for the coffee--in 1977 they received 30 American cents per pound, that is, only 16 percent of the product's selling price, while the Kenyan grower received 219 cents, or 93 percent of the product's value--the Ugandan growers--2 million of them and most of them small growers--mostly converted to more profitable crops, in particular corn and peanuts. And even more so since, along with the rest of the population, they were suffering from a spiraling inflation in consumer prices of approximately 150 percent per year.

The new leaders of the country do not, therefore, underestimate the task that has fallen to them of stimulating coffee activity, which they consider to be the basic element of the Ugandan economy. They know that they must encourage the producers even more, help them to clear new land, to prune some of their plants, obtain for them the necessary equipment and materials; they also know that they must aid in restoring the processing factories that were destroyed in the civil war. This will require sizable investments. However, to all these problems is added one more for them, which concerns the coffee sector as well as the whole country, to wit, the problem of transportation. And here the situation seems critical. The railroads suffer from an acute lack of rolling stock, engines and cars, and the tracks themselves must be repaired in many places. As for road transportation, trucks and spare parts are sadly lacking.

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UGANDA

BRIEFS

COFFEE PRODUCTION MEASURES--On 5 July, Yona Kanyomi, minister of cooperatives and trade in Mr Binaisa's new government, announced measures aimed at stimulating the local coffee production, which has been badly affected under the regime of former president Idi Amin Dada. Thus, the purchase price to the producer of Robusta coffee has been doubled and raised to 14.30 Ugandan shillings per kilo (approximately \$1.90) and the purchase price of Arabica has been raised to 15.35 shillings (approximately \$2.06). In addition, processors will receive a 90 percent increase for the 1979-1980 season that has just begun. Finally, Mr Kanyomi urged the authorities to set up frontier guards to put an end to the smuggling that is taking place with Rwanda and Kenya. He estimates that this smuggling is causing between 30 and 40 percent of Uganda's coffee production to disappear over the frontier, which is to the great disadvantage of the local economy. [Text] (Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 13 Jul 79 p 1994) 11550

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